

# Pre-K News

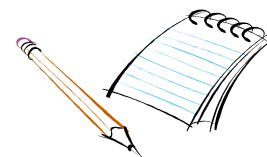
A Newsletter for Pre-K  
Staff



SPRING 2006, VOLUME I, ISSUE 3

## Things to Remember

April-June



## SPOTLIGHT ON...

As part of our quarterly newsletter, OSR would like to recognize one site each quarter for their exceptional performances. This quarter we recognize **Toyland Daycare & Learning Center in Covington County**. Toyland Pre-k had many children at the beginning of the year with severe learning problems. This coupled with a classroom with space that barely met standards was a true challenge for the director, Ms. Patricia Daniels and the teachers, Ms. Danita Day and Ms. Shannon Adams.

The first step toward improvement was expansion of space. The teachers created an inviting learning environment by using an additional room. Ms. Daniels was very helpful by her willingness to work with the teachers in providing additional space for the program.

Next, Ms. Daniels met with the local task force, Children's Policy Council, and businesses to secure an asst. teacher who held a degree in Special Education. A local business provided funds to help with the additional costs of staff. The skills of Ms. Adams working with the learning techniques of Ms. Day provided the expertise necessary to "turn the program around!"

*Ms. Danita Day is pictured to the right. For pictures of Toyland Daycare and Learning Center in Covington County, see p. 7*

- All sites closing in the summer, please send in **Parent Surveys** by May 26, 2006. Sites with at least an 85% response rate will receive **free** classroom materials.

### Items Due *the last day of May 2006:*

- OSR Report Form
- Child Demographic Form

### Items Due *at the end of the year:*

- End of Year Report (**30 days after end of program**).
- Actual Classroom Budget
- End-of-Year Teaching Training Verification Form
- OSR Report Form - May 2006
- Child Demographic Form
- Parent Conference Verification
- Family Enrichment Sign-In-Sheet
- Parent Involvement/Enrichment Hours Log

*All of the above information must be submitted to OSR prior to the disbursement of the third check.*



## *Message From the Director*

Hello again State Pre-K sites. We are still very excited over outcomes of the first State Pre-K conference that took place March 31-April 1, 2006. We are so glad that many of you were able to come and hope that you received a lot of beneficial training. OSR has gotten a lot of feedback and suggestions for how to make the conference bigger and better next year and is looking forward to making it happen.

The OSR is continuously collecting data to improve the quality and delivery of Pre-K services across the state. A current task for which we solicit your assistance is in collecting end-of-the-year surveys from parents indicating their levels of satisfaction with the program. We will recognize all programs that receive at least an 85% response rate from their parents during curriculum training that will occur in July. Keep up the good work. The success of 4-year olds are depending on you!!!

*Sincerely,*

*Dr. Trellis Smith Williams*

## **Technical Assistant's Corner**



Can you believe it? We will be ending the school year 2005-06 and preparing for school year 2006-07! As we reflect on this year, we believe that all sites continue to grow in quality and importance.

Curriculum training will be provided for teachers and assistants this summer (tentatively scheduled for July 31st-August 2nd). You will receive more information concerning this training soon. A meeting for program directors will also be planned (probably a day during the last week of June), so the summer months will continue to be busy. Hopefully, you can get some much needed rest and be ready to begin another successful year by September.

## **We've Moved**

**Our new address is:**

**Office of School Readiness  
Business Center of Alabama  
2 North Jackson Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
(334) 223-0702**



## Discovering: Outdoor Education for Young Children

By: Dianne W. Pace, M.A. ED.



"Listen," the teacher exclaims, "do you hear what I hear?" A white-throated sparrow sings the soft, long whistle of spring. The children excitedly stop in their tracks and listen while the teacher looks toward the tree tops.

The living and non-living surround us daily. The lessons taught outdoors can provide an environment for creation of an outdoor nature center, children can experience firsthand the natural world rather than learn about it from books and direct teaching. The center can provide ideal settings for teaching the critical thinking skills of observing, measuring, classifying, analyzing and interpreting.

A well planned outdoor nature center can also add new meaning to a young child's understanding of man's relation to his environment. It can serve to reinforce the following important environmental concepts:

- All living things, including people, are interdependent with one another and with their natural environment.
- Natural resources undergo continuous change
- Man depends on renewable natural resources for survival

(An excellent children's book resource to follow up on and/or introduce the above concepts is *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein.)

Locating and designing the nature center as a outdoor classroom will depend on the size and space available which may vary from a small lot to a 100-acre forest. All areas of the curriculum can be used in the nature center. In addition to science, math, art, language and social studies can be supplemented through the use of the center. (Two state environmental groups, Legacy and the Environmental Education Association of Alabama has grant money available to help with the creation of outdoor nature centers).

### Nature Centers for Preschool Curriculum

#### Science

1. Compare similarities and differences of animals
2. Discuss a variety of foods which different animals eat
3. Name and describe different animal homes



#### Language Arts

1. Converse about living and non living things
2. Use describing words to make group experience charts on outdoor activities, write stories
3. Enjoy a wide variety of books on nature

#### Math

1. Recognize patterns in nature
2. Recognize shapes in nature
3. Classify



# Highlights from Pre-K Conference

The 1st Annual Pre-K Conference was a success. We had over 700 people in attendance. Everyone that attended had great things to say about the conference. Plans are already underway for the next one.

Alabama Pre-K Conference  
Celebrate Early Success:



A Focus on 4-year-olds



# Diabetes: Threatening Trends for Youth

By Debra Griffin, RN

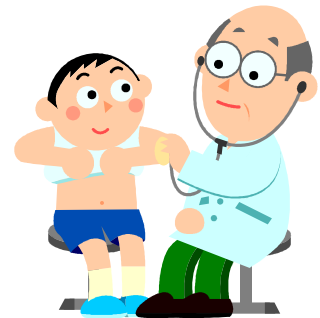
Type 2 diabetes is being diagnosed more frequently in children including adolescents, particularly African Americans and Hispanic/Latino Americans. It is becoming more of a concern for the future and a priority for healthcare providers and community leaders.

There are two types of diabetes, type 1 and type 2. Type 1 diabetes is a condition in which the body makes little or no insulin. In type 2 diabetes, the body makes insulin, but is not able to use it effectively.

*"Type 2 diabetes is being diagnosed more frequently in children...."*

For children, the *fasting plasma glucose test*, starting at age 10 or the onset of puberty, is the test of choice. The signs and symptoms of diabetes include increased urination, increased thirst, increased hunger, blurred vision and sudden weight loss. It is imperative that diabetes be identified promptly, because untreated long-term complications include eye disease with the potential of loss vision, renal failure, heart disease, peripheral neuropathy, amputations and cardiovascular disease.

Healthcare providers, teachers, and community leaders have a unique role in the promotion of the prevention of Type 2 diabetes in youth. Suggestions include teaching students to make wise food choices. Other choices include choosing snacks such as fresh fruit, cheese, and whole grain foods. Childcare professionals and teachers should promote daily physical activity which will provide the biggest reward of our efforts in the long run to decrease and possibly prevent diabetes in children.



## *The Children Who Fall Into the Following Categories Should Be Tested!!*

- \* *Body mass index greater than 85th percentile for age and sex*
- \* *Weight for height greater than 85th percentile*
- \* *Weight greater than 120% of ideal height*
- \* *Plus any 2 of the following risk factors:*
  - > *Race*
  - > *Family History*
  - > *Maternal History of Diabetes*
  - > *Hypertension*



# Parent's Corner

## Kindergarten Registration is Getting Under Way.....

### Do You Know What you Need to Get Your 5 Year old Registered??



- Child's Certificate of Birth
- Immunization Certificate ( Blue Sheet)
- Copy of Social Security Card
- Proof of Residence

**For More Information On Important Dates Surrounding Registration Contact Your Local Board of Education.**

### Here are a few questions you may have regarding registration.

#### 1. Will my child be eligible for kindergarten this year?

*Contact your local Board of Ed. to get cut off of children's birthdates for the 2006-07 school year.*

#### 2. Should I still show up at registration if I do not have all of the documents that are required?

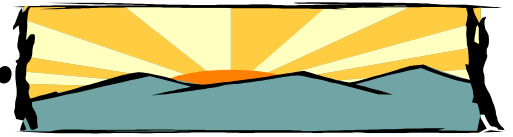
*Yes. You will be allowed to bring back information at a later time. Bring all that you do have to registration with you.*



#### 3. What If I don't have my child's birth certificate?

*It can be obtained by calling the state health department in the state in which your child was born. There will be a fee associated with this request and you should allow time for request to be processed.*

# On the Horizon...



- The Peabody Picture Vocabulary Assessment and the ELKA will be administered in the Spring. As soon as assessments are finished, mail results to OSR, attention Janet Woods.
- How Successful Directors Manage National Conference **April 26-29, 2006**, Atlanta, Georgia
- High/Scope International Conference **May 2-5, 2006**, Ypsilanti, Michigan
- NAEYC Accreditation Training by Melissa Werner **May 9-10, 2006**, Birmingham, Alabama & **June 20-21, 2006**, Decatur, Alabama.
- National Head Start Association 33rd Annual Training Conference **May 10-13, 2006**, Detroit, Michigan
- NAEYC Regional Seminar: *What You Need to Know About NAEYC's New Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria* **May 19, 2006**, Orlando, Florida
- National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development will be held **June 4-7, 2006**, San Antonio, Texas
- National PTA's Annual Convention **June 23-26, 2006**, Phoenix, Arizona
- Safe and Sound: Keeping Children and Families Safe Through Sound Emergency Practices, **June 27-29, 2006** in Birmingham, Alabama.

If you need additional information about any of these events, please contact Danielle Golston at

[Danielle.Golston@dca.alabama.gov](mailto:Danielle.Golston@dca.alabama.gov).

## Here's More From the Covington County Spotlight

